

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-4 are amended to be directed to a fibrous sheet instead of a topsheet. This amendment is consistent with the language of claim 5, with claim 5 now being directed to a topsheet as an embodiment of claim 1. An editorial revision is also made in claim 1. Non-elected claim 6 is cancelled. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Withdrawal of Prior Art Rejections

Applicants thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the previous prior art rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 1-4. Applicants believe that the subject matter of claim 5 should have also been indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter. Based on the above amendments, applicants believe that claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance.

Objection to Claim 1

The Examiner objects to claim 1 for the reason that no antecedent basis exists for the word "fibers" at line 2. In response, claim 1 is amended to correct this deficiency. The objection is thus without basis and should be withdrawn.

Objection to Claim 5

Claim 5 stands objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claim 1.

In response, claims 1 and 5 are amended in a manner which is believed to overcome this objection. Claim 1 is amended to be directed to a "fibrous sheet" (consistent with the claim 5 language) instead of a "topsheet", with claim 5 being amended to depend from claim 1 and be


directed to a "topsheet" (consistent with the claim 1 language). In essence, claim 5 now claims a preferred embodiment of claim 1. The claims accordingly are no longer believed to be substantial duplicates as alleged by the Examiner. The objection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. An early indication of same earnestly is solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.


Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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